



# Medford Police Department

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

### December 2021

Greetings,

Congratulations are in order to Chief Scott Clauson, on his upcoming retirement. After a couple of weeks of well-deserved vacation time, Chief Clauson's last day at MPD will be December 31<sup>st</sup>. A lot of people don't know this, but Chief Clauson started his law enforcement career in 1992 as a Marine Deputy for the Sheriff's Department. Chief Clauson was hired by the Medford Police Department in 1995, where he started his journey up through the ranks. Chief Clauson has been a Community Service Officer, Corporal, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief, and of course Chief. Chief Clauson served the department as a Field Training Officer, School Resource Officer, and was a Crisis Negotiator for over 15 years. Chief Clauson is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Chief Clauson needs to be commended for his leadership throughout his time as Chief. In 2020 Chief Clauson navigated the department through social unrest surrounding the death of George Floyd, the COVID 19 pandemic, and the Alameda Fire. One of Chief Clauson's many achievements was the formation of MPD's Livability Team. Officer wellness and employee's mental well-being were always a priority for Chief Clauson. He would often tell new employees, "This career is a marathon not a sprint."

Please help me in wishing Chief Clauson a happy and safe retirement!

DC Ivens.



The City of Medford Winter Lights Festival was back in full fashion, for 2021. Another outstanding job from our Parks & Rec department, on this well attended event. It was definitely a huge boost in helping us return to a greater level of normality, in our city. Your MPD was also there helping to make this a safer and more enjoyable event, for those in attendance. Mayor Sparacino had the honors of lighting the Christmas tree. Wouldn't you say that we are very fortunate to live in the Rogue Valley?

Greetings NW team members and Medford Residents,

Your MPD hopes that everyone had a safe and festive Thanksgiving celebration. As we now anticipate the cheer of celebrating the Christmas and New year's holidays arriving in just a few weeks, there will certainly be many folks making plans for celebrations, parties and various festivities. For some, it may be at a location such as your place of work, a restaurant, a hotel, or at home with family/friends. Please consider these annual safety tips, as we all enjoy the upcoming holidays:

### **PARTY REMINDERS**

As we all know, any amount of consumed alcohol has the potential to impair a person's ability to make sound decisions, such as operating a motor vehicle. If you will be consuming alcoholic beverages over the holidays (and any other time as well), make sure you do not operate a motor vehicle. Instead, have a designated driver chosen in advance who is safe, responsible, licensed and insured to do the driving for you.

If hosting a party where alcoholic beverages will be served, **do** include non-alcoholic beverages as well. Make arrangements and appoint guests who **won't** be consuming **any** alcoholic beverages, to be designated drivers for guests, who may need a ride home. In addition, always be mindful of the impact your party may have on your neighbors. Remember: the party is at your house, not at everyone else's house in the neighborhood.

Your MPD enforces a **ZERO** tolerance policy toward those who choose to **Drive Under the Influence of Intoxicants**. Please remember that only time will eliminate consumed alcohol from your body. Acting responsibly, especially when consuming adult beverages will save lives, including yours, as well as any innocent victims.

### **WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT**

The seat belts in your vehicle are there to protect you and your passengers. Oregon law (ORS 811.210) requires that all motor vehicle operators and passengers be properly secured in their vehicles by a safety belt or harness, unless all safety belt equipped seating positions are occupied by other persons. Don't wait for a reminder from an MPD patrol or traffic officer. Please, buckle up and do it correctly (over the shoulder, not under). Seat belts are a simple and effective device installed in our vehicles that greatly increase our ability to arrive at our destination safely. We always take time to make sure our loved ones, kids and grandkids are buckled in but, who will buckle them in, if we are no longer there?

### **STAYING SAFE AND ALERT AT THE ATM**

ATM machines are still targets for would-be criminals. If you observe any suspicious activity when approaching an ATM, return at a later time or use another location. Call MPD at 541-776-7206 and report the suspicious activity. Do not use cash machines that are out of public view. When outside, choose ones that are well lit and have high visibility from the street. Have your ATM card and/or deposit envelope ready and completed before you approach a cash machine. Avoid displaying your cash. Put it away as soon as you have completed your transaction.

Wait to verify your cash, until you are in a safe location. Retain your receipt and keep it with your financial records. Verify each transaction by checking the receipt against your monthly statement. Protect your P.I.N number. Never write the number on your card. Always keep your card in your wallet or purse, **NOT** in your vehicle.

### **HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY**

**Don't** leave presents visible in your home that are in full view of passers-by, through a window or door.

**Don't** comment on social networking sites what valuables you have received.

**Don't** advertise what you received for Christmas by placing the empty boxes out on trash day. Break boxes down and dispose of them in an inconspicuous way.

**Don't** disclose on social media when you are likely to leave your home unattended, for any length of time to attend events, such as Christmas parties, visiting friends and/or relatives, etc.

**Do** leave a radio or television on, giving your home the appearance that it is occupied.

**Do** remember to lock your doors, windows and close your garage door before leaving your home, even if you are only going to be away for a short time.

On behalf of your MPD, have a safe and fun Christmas and, a Happy New Year's celebration. Todd Sales CSO #908, MPD